



Dear Parents/Carers

Term 4 is coming to a close and Easter approaches, this academic year is flying by and we are moving into the final third. I held a Principal's Breakfast last week for Years 7 & 8 and a second for 9&10, for these I invite the sometimes overlooked hard working but quiet students (one of our rewards, there are others for people who lead on things, people who try hard etc). It was really nice talking to them about how they are doing at school and in life, and, I was pleased to hear from them that they have noticed that staff are working hard this year to do more fun things at lunch and break time and on special occasions, with the interhouse competitions held this week being one example they talked about. We will keep on with this push as we want all our students to work hard academically, behave well, but just as importantly, enjoy the social and competitive side of life at school as well.

Absences – A quick reminder

For all absences, illnesses and appointments, please email our Attendance Officer: attendance@wyeschool.org.uk or telephone 01233 811119 and leave a message.

Brain Boosting Meals for Exams

Please see the following [link](#) to read a newsletter from Taylor Shaw, our school caterer, with suggestions of brain boosting meals for exams and other quick and tasty recipes'.

Catering- Portion Uplift Trial

Following Student Council feedback at Wye and at other UL schools, in which students have said that portion sizes are not sufficient, next term we will be part of a trial across UL schools to increase portion sizes in the main meal. This involves the addition of a half portion of carbohydrates in the main meal and grab and go options, such as an extra half portion of roast potatoes, rice or pasta, the addition of a garlic bread, the addition of a portion of wedges with a panini.

The cost of this portion increase will be 14p, bringing the cost of the hot/cold meal deal (main meal + pudding) to £2.66. Main meals without pudding will rise to £2.34. The additional cost will fund the portion increase, and there will be no profits made from the uplift.

The trial and the uplift in price will be for the duration of the summer term, until we break for the summer holiday. Alongside other UL schools within this trial, we will review whether the portion and price uplift has a positive response from students. We will be seeking feedback from students throughout the trial, but also welcome any feedback from parents/carers.

Please follow the [link](#) to a letter from Taylor Shaw, our caterers, regarding the trial. Please also click [here](#) to view the posters which will be displayed in school for students about the trial.

Equipment and readiness to learn

It is vital that each student comes to school every day with the basic equipment needed for learning. All students will need a pencil case containing the following items:

- Black and green pens (a multi-pen can be purchased)
- Pencils, pencil sharpener and eraser
- Drywipe pen (mini whiteboard marker)
- Ruler, 30cm

- Glue stick
- Coloured pencils
- Highlighter pens

Mathematics sets and calculators will be needed. Students need a scientific calculator, and we recommend the Casio FX83GT-CW. Mathematics sets will need to include a protractor and compasses. Pencil cases and calculators should be clearly marked with your child's name.

With the exception of calculators, we set all of the above at cost price at Reception for students to purchase before school and at break/lunch. Items most commonly missing are drywipe pens and glue sticks.

At the start of the year the school purchased mini whiteboards for every student to be able to use in every classroom, but we asked that students provide their own pens. Mini whiteboards are used routinely by staff, as a quick and effective way to check every student's understanding of what has been taught during the lesson. Without all of the above equipment, your child will not be able to engage fully in lessons as staff do not have equipment to be able to lend.

Please take the opportunity over the two week break to check your child's pencil case has everything they need and replenish what they do not have.

Organisation planner resource

There is a very helpful planner resource that you may find useful in supporting your child's organization of homework and deadlines at home. Click [here](#) for more information.

Purpose of the Planner: This planner is designed to help students:

- Track their daily and weekly homework assignments.
- Plan and prioritize tasks to meet deadlines.
- Develop essential organizational skills that will benefit them throughout their academic journey and beyond.

We believe that this resource can be a valuable aid for students who may benefit from additional support in managing their academic workload outside of the classroom. Your involvement can be instrumental in helping them develop strong organizational habits. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Spotlight on Speech and Language

Understanding Lisps – A guide for Parents

At Wye school, we are committed to supporting the needs of all our students, including those with speech and language challenges. One common issue some children face is a lisp, which can affect their ability to pronounce certain sounds, particularly "s" and "z" sounds. Understanding and addressing this issue early can significantly impact a child's communication skills and confidence.

What is a Lisp?

A lisp is a speech impediment where a child has difficulty producing the correct sounds for "s" and "z." There are different types of lisps, including:

Frontal Lisp: The tongue pushes too far forward, creating a "th" sound instead of "s" or "z." And Lateral Lisp: Air escapes over the sides of the tongue, making the sound wet or slushy.

See [here](#) for more information regarding Lisps and how best you can support your child.

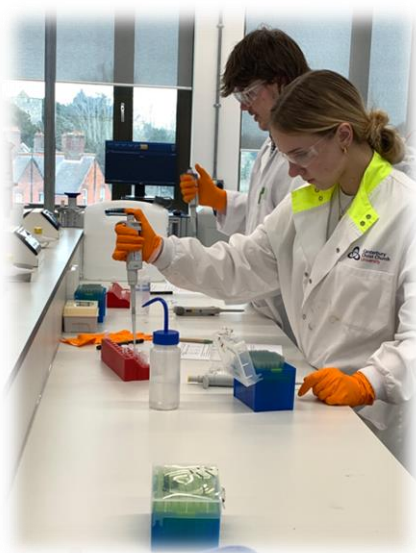
We work closely with speech-language therapists to ensure that children with speech and language challenges receive the help they need. If you have concerns about your child's speech development, please do not hesitate to reach out to our speech and language team, Nicky Hargrave at office@wyeschool.org.uk or contact the SEN department.

ACE Tuition, EASTER - Final Phase Exam Courses

If you are interested in extra tuition for exam preparation over the Easter holidays, please click on the following links: [GCSE Maths](#), [GCSE English Literature](#), and [GCSE English Language](#). This is offered by an external organisation not linked to Wye School.

Canterbury Christ Church University – Simulation Suite Open Event

Canterbury Christ Church University are pleased to inform you of their Free family friendly Easter Simulation suite Open Event over the Easter period for Thursday 10 april 2025 at their Canterbury Campus. Please see [here](#) for more information.



Canterbury Christ Church University

Sixth Form students recently visited the science laboratories at Canterbury Christ Church University

Students used NMR spectroscopy to quantify alcohol concentrations in various commercial liquors.

They attempted to identify the liquor based on its alcohol concentration and compare it to its stated concentration.

They gained experience within state-of-the-art equipment, labs and skills.

They also got to have a glimpse of what university life might involve.



Royal Opera House Visit



On Tuesday 1st April, a group of our students were very excited to visit the Royal Opera House for a fantastic immersive concert, *Everybody Sing The Magic Flute*.

The concert was a special event to launch United Learning's collaboration with the Royal Opera House on a new project based on Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*.

As part of the project, students across the Group have been working with artists from the Royal Opera House to create a unique performance of the famous opera.

With the aim of promoting students' creativity, confidence and collaboration skills, the project has so far seen students learn six songs from *The Magic Flute* to perform at the launch event. Bringing together 1,700 students from 53 schools, students created a vibrant performance of the opera alongside the Royal Ballet & Opera Orchestra and professional opera singers.

During the Summer Term, students will then learn the rest of the repertoire to perform at one of three concerts across the country in June and July. These will be held at the Royal Festival Hall in London, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and Corn Exchange in Cambridge. Eight students from Wye School across Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in this event.

The concert was a wonderful way to launch the project, and our students are now very much looking forward to performing at the Royal Festival Hall in the summer.





Virtual School Kent - No Limits Conference

We were delighted to be able to attend the annual conference this year with a small group of students. The aim of the conference is to be able to give care experienced students the opportunity to browse and chat with colleges and a range of industries, take place in workshops and to inform Designated Teachers of the interventions available to their students. We had a fantastic inspiring day and met the key note speaker Ashley John Baptiste, himself a care experienced individual who was able to talk to the students about achieving their dreams whatever their background. We all received a signed copy of his book 'Looked After - A Childhood in Care' in which he shares his personal experiences of the care system and how he remained resilient and took advantage of opportunities that came his way, ultimately leading to him becoming a successful broadcaster and author.



Interschool Dodgeball Tournament

The Wye Warriors proudly represented Wye School at an interschool Dodgeball Tournament. Unfortunately, we didn't make it through to the finals as despite our best dodging efforts we weren't that dodgy! They had a great time but never want Mrs McCorrison to attend again as she is far too competitive!

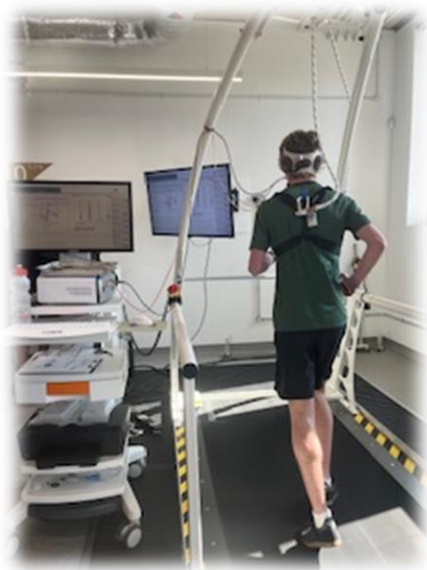
Congratulations to Our Top Science Homework Achievers!

We are thrilled to announce that Chester Chan, Nathanael Chidanguro (Year 7), Sandra Babu and Viburshehan Mohanathas (Year 8), Molly Cornford, Amelia Marchenko (Year 9), Freya King, Lesley Maposa, Numa Limbu (Year 10) Chloe Brouard and Otter Wilson has achieved the highest Science homework scores in their year groups for this term!

This outstanding accomplishment is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Their success reflects the incredible effort they have put into their studies, and we are immensely proud of their achievement. We also extend our gratitude to their parents for the unwavering support and encouragement they provide at home.

We look forward to seeing all our students continue to excel and reach new heights in their academic journeys. Keep up the great work, everyone!

SportsLab visit



A Level and GCSE PE and Food Students were invited to experience a morning as a sport scientist at Canterbury Christ Church University. They had a session on diet and performance where they explored the dietary needs of an athlete and considered the components of diet. They then enjoyed a session in the laboratories with students experiencing what it was like to measure and analyse their VO2 max and observing one student on the treadmill. We measured two students' power on the bikes, comparing size and age. We then looked at the BMI pod and were shown how it was used to measure Body Mass Index. This state-of-the-art equipment is regularly used by professional athletes and teams.

Sports Leaders - Ashford Hockey Club Community Tournament



It was such a pleasure seeing our students thrive as Sports Leaders at the Junior Schools Hockey Tournament held at Ashford Hockey Club. Our students were responsible for umpiring, score keeping, time keeping, selecting 'best players' and generally organising the competition. It was wonderful to see them all grow in confidence and willingness to have a go at being Sports Leaders.

They have been great ambassadors for both Wye School and Ashford Hockey Club and have proved how incredible Wye School Students are.

Feedback from the organisers - *'Thank you ever so much for the support from Wye School at today's tournament. I would like to say how well the Wye students conducted themselves throughout the day. They were a credit to their school and themselves. They should be very proud. They worked hard and those umpiring grew in confidence throughout the day. It would be a pleasure to have their assistance again in future years. What a polite, well mannered, mature bunch they were.'*



A big thank you to Citrus Construction Management for the generous donation of a large cable reel for our allotment.



Wye Nature Club Spring Newsletter

Lots of work has been done over at the school allotment over the last few weeks we have been busy preparing a new rose bed and sowing seeds and planting bulbs. The students have been working hard and have thoroughly enjoyed the good weather of late.



Our Holistic & Thrive and Sensory circuits groups joined together with Nature Club to start creating a new area within our allotment which will be specifically for sensory wellbeing and wildlife & help to develop motor skills.

Just a reminder that its *No Mow May* please follow the [link](#) for more information.

Wye Community Farm

If your child is interested in farming or is looking for an outdoor activity or even a volunteering placement for DofE then do consider Wye Community Farm. Now based at Garlinge Green, they have chickens, sheep, pigs and cattle that need looking after and caring for and are always looking out for new members. They have Junior Farm Club on Fridays at 4pm for 8-12year olds and, Farm Club on Saturday mornings from 9.30am for 13+ years. If interested please email Richard on info@wyecommunityfarm.org.uk or give them a follow on Facebook.

Ashford Family Hubs – Easter HAF Events

If you are eligible for free school meals, please see the following [link](#) for more information on free holiday activities and food. Please note that they operate on a first come, first served basis.

Fully Funded School Support Course

For further information on how you can apply for fully funded support course, please visit [here](#).

Wye Farmers Market Egg Decorating Competition

Wye Farmers Market are holding their much-loved egg decorating competition again this year, falling on Easter Saturday (19 April 25) during the holidays. For further information, please click [here](#).

Easter Football Camp

Click [here](#) for more information on the 'Easter Break Camp' with Ashford United Football Club in partnership with Barry Fuller Football Academy.

Free Holiday Activity this Easter! Offered by Mid Kent Mind

Join the [Free Family Zumba!](#) Our qualified fitness instructor will be leading a Zumba session suitable for the whole family. Zumba combines aerobic exercise with Latin dance music resulting in a fun and energetic workout. No experience is necessary to take part but please wear suitable clothes and footwear that you can move around in easily. Young people aged 9-13 are welcome to join us and as this is a family session, at least one parent/carer per family is also required to take part. This is a great opportunity to have some fun as a family and build positive relationships. There is also the chance to stay afterwards to talk to our Wellbeing Team about any support you or your child may need.

Date: Tuesday 8th April 2025

Time: 10am – 11:30am

Location: Kingsnorth CE Primary School, Kingsnorth, Ashford, TN23 3EF

To sign up: please use this link to register your space: [Holiday workshops – Mid Kent Mind](#)

Forest School Activities

Mid Kent Mind are also offering Free holiday activities for young people aged 9-13 and their family. Please see [link](#) for more information.

AHC Camps

Come and take part in our fun and engaging hockey camp! For more information on how to book your place, please follow the [link](#).

Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
04 April 2025		Last day of Term
23 April 2025		Start of Term
23 April 2025	17:15 – 18:45	Year 9 Options Evening (Margaret Williams building) Presentation at 17:15 or 18:00
24 + 25 April 2025		GCSE Art – Practical examinations
28 + 29 April 2025		GCSE - Spanish Speaking Exams
28 April 2025	15:30 – 19:30	Year 9 Parents Evening (Virtual)
30 April 2025 plus 06, 07 May 25		GCSE – French Speaking Exams
29 & 30 April and 01 May 2025		A level Art – Practical examinations
02 - 04 May 2025		Silver DofE Practice – Ashdown Forest
05 May 2025		Bank Holiday
12 – 16 May 2025		Year 12 End of Year Assessments
13 May 2025		Year 7 Parents' Evening
16 - 18 May 2025		Bronze DofE Practice
19 – 23 May 2025		Year 8 and 9 end of Year Assessments
23 May 2025		Last day of term

Conclusion

You will know that we are moving from being an 11-18 to 11-16 school with the phased closure of our 6th form starting next year and closing completely in August 2026. The school was built for 600 students, which originally was to be 3 forms in Years 7-11 and then 6th Form. Now that we will no longer have a 6th form, we are moving to 4 form entry in Years 7-11, keeping the overall size of the school at 600. You will know that due to the small size of our 6th Form we have already had 4 form entry in occasional years, depending on the local need, with our current Year 7 and Year 8 being 4 form entries. As an oversubscribed school this will carry on each year going forward allowing us to

reduce our waiting lists and offer a place to more of the people who put us as their first choice school locally. It will have no impact on resourcing or use of space as the 4th form will use space being freed up by the closure of the 6th form.

The roadworks issue has been an interesting one this term, at one point I think there was only one road left from Wye to anywhere that did not have roadworks or indeed was shut completely! Thank you for your patience with the impact this had on school buses, the school run, trips, and other things. We will do everything we can to minimise the impact of this next term. On that note, sadly, there is another planned closure, on Olantigh Road this time, which we think and hope is not blocking the school from the village side but is blocking us from the other side, here is the information:

UK Power Networks works. To allow installation works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to temporarily prohibit through traffic on part of Olantigh Road, Wye. A closure is planned from 7th April 2025, with estimated completion by 9th May 2025, or where stated on a valid Permit (KZ50032496758-02 - UK Power Networks). The scheduled dates may vary for these works with appropriate signage displayed on site and the works will be displayed on One. Network Olantigh Road will be closed from Olantigh Farm, to the junction with Occupation Road, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while installation works are undertaken by UK Power Networks. The alternative route for any through traffic is via Olantigh Road, Scotton Street, Coldharbour Lane, Waltham Road, Woods Hill, Richdore Road, Sole Street, Thornham Lodge, Ripple Farm, Olantigh Road and vice versa. Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works.'

I hope you all have a good Easter holiday and look forward to seeing all the students back for term 5.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee
Principal